

Washington State
Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250



March 12, 2004

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street Southwest, Room 10408
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta:

Subject: Collection of Civil Penalty Imposed Against Olympic Pipeline

The Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety respectfully requests that the Research and Special Administration Program (RSPA) act to immediately collect the \$3.05 million dollar civil penalty against Olympic Pipeline Company. This Citizens Committee was created by the Washington State Legislature following the tragic petroleum pipeline explosion in June 1999 in which three youths lost their lives. We are statutorily charged with advising state, federal and local agencies on matters related to safety of hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines.

Enforcement and collection of this fine will serve as a strong deterrent to pipeline operators and clearly reinforce that they will be held accountable for their actions. This is especially important here in Washington State, where not only did the state personally experience this tragedy, but reacted by lobbying for legislative passage of stronger federal and state regulation of this industry.

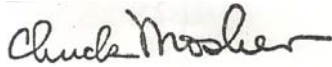
The failure to collect the imposed penalty sends a message to the people of Washington that the federal government is either unwilling or unable to utilize the tools available to protect our citizens. We also believe that failing to pursue this penalty undermines the 2002 Federal Pipeline Safety Act and further diminishes the credibility of the Office of Pipeline Safety.

The Office of Pipeline Safety, through RSPA, is the only entity that has jurisdiction to enforce these penalties. We strongly urge the Department of Transportation carefully consider this important safety issue and the underlying message it is sending.

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Thank you for your time in considering our concerns. We request your response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Mosher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chuck Mosher
Chair, Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

cc: Stacey Gerard, Associate Administrator OPS
The Honorable Patty Murray, Senator
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Senator
The Honorable Jay Inslee, House of Representatives
The Honorable Rick Larsen, House of Representatives
The Honorable Brian Baird, House of Representatives
The Honorable Doc Hastings, House of Representatives
The Honorable George Nethercutt, House of Representatives
The Honorable Norman Dicks, House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim McDermott, House of Representatives
The Honorable Jennifer Dunn, House of Representatives
The Honorable Adam Smith, House of Representatives